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A N N U A L R E P O R T O F T H E
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
F O R T H E Y E A R
1 9 6 0



Medical Officer of Health -

NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector -

W. N. TEASDALE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st June, 1961.

To The Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,
Shaftesbury Borough Council

Madam & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the
year 1960.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in
accordance with the requirements of the Sanitary Officers
(Outside London) Regulations, 1935 and 1951.

The report shows that the health of the Borough
has remained satisfactory. There was no undue incidence of
infectious disease. The vital statistics compare favourably
with those for the Country as a whole.

I am indebted to Mr. Teasdale, your Public Health
Inspector, for his co-operation and help during the year and
for his assistance in preparing this report, and to my clerk,
Miss J. Shirley for her efficient services.

I would also like to thank you, Madam and Gentlemen,
for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

Les Stearns

Medical Officer of Health



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SHAFTESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1 9 6 0

A. Area - 1,078 acres.

Rateable value: 1st April, 1961 = £42,461

Production of a penny rate: 1960/61 - £165 (estimate)
1961/62 - £168 (estimate)

Vital Statistics

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 3,410

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		<u>Comparative Rates</u>	
				(a) <u>Shaftesbury</u> <u>Borough</u>	(b) <u>England</u> <u>& Wales</u>
Total	23	24	Rate per 1,000		
Legitimate	23	21	resident pop:		
Illegitimate	-	3	= 13.4	13.8	17.1

STILLBIRTHS

Total	Nil	Nil	Rate per 1,000 live & stillbirths = Nil	Nil	21.0
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DEATHS

Total	21	30	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 14.9	11.4	11.5
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Deaths in infants

Under 1 Year	Nil	1	Infantile death		
Under 4 Weeks	Nil	Nil	rate per 1,000		
Under 1 Week	Nil	Nil	live births		
(Legitimate)			= 20.9	20.9	21.7

		<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1957</u>
Deaths from Maternal Causes		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Tuberculosis		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Cancer of the Lungs		1	2	Nil	
" " Other Cancer		8	7	1	8
" " Coronary Disease(Angina)		13	10	8	7
" " Other Heart or Vascular disease		18	28	15	15
" " Influenza		1	1	Nil	Nil
" " Pneumonia		1	Nil	2	2
" " Motor vehicle accidents		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " All other accidents		Nil	1	1	Nil
" " Suicide		Nil	1	Nil	Nil
" " Leukaemia & Aleukemia		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

B. Nature of the District

Shaftesbury is an ancient Borough with strong historical connections. It is a market town supplying the requirements of the farming community in the surrounding districts. Its principal industries and trades include glove making and the local central depots for the Southern Electricity Board and Post Office Engineers are stationed there. A Government Radio Station is also within its boundaries. Extension to the new cattle market has led to a beneficial increase in trade expansion of the market.

C. Health Services in the District which are not the responsibility of the District Council

The Hospital Service

The Westminster Memorial Hospital of the Salisbury Group Management Committee of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board provides local hospital facilities, both in-patient and out-patient.

Ambulance Service

The local ambulance service is provided by the County Council using the St. John Ambulance Brigade as its agent. An efficient service has been maintained throughout the year.

Laboratory Services

The laboratories at Dorchester and Salisbury of the Public Health Laboratory Service cover your district. The service has again proved in every way, to be co-operative and efficient.

General Medical Practitioner, Ophthalmic and Pharmaceutical Services

These are administered locally by the Dorset Executive Committee.

County Council Services

The personal preventive health services are the responsibility of the Dorset County Council, which includes the care of mothers and young children, maternity, school health, home nursing, mental health, the ambulance service, care and after care of the blind and handicapped and health education. The following responsibilities call for particular comment -

The Domestic Help Service The appointment of a part time paid local organiser for the North Dorset area has assisted administratively in the organisation of this service.

The Welfare of Aged People Through its well organised scheme (including the co-ordinated services of the health visiting, domestic help, home nursing services and the social welfare officer) the increasing responsibilities in respect of old people are being efficiently carried out. The lack of an adequate number of hospital beds for the chronic and aged sick puts a particular strain on the County Council's services at some times of

the year. An efficient scheme is in operation to ensure that, as far as possible the best use is made of the beds available and the available places in the County Councils homes for old people.

The valuable work which the Dorset Branch of the British Red Cross Society does towards the welfare of old people in the district requires acknowledgement. Acting as agent for the County Council, amongst its other activities, the British Red Cross has established foot clinics throughout the County.

In Shaftesbury a weekly clinic is held with an average attendance of seven patients. Sixty three patients were on the register at the end of the year.

Mention should also be made of the scheme under which the County Council makes financial assistance available to the local housing authority for welfare provisions in connection with houses built for the particular needs of old people

Problem Families In an attempt to prevent the break-up of families both from humane consideration and the resultant financial cost the County Council co-operates closely with the Housing Authority by rent guarantees and other action, as may appear appropriate.

Prophylactic Inoculations Preventive inoculation against disease is the responsibility of the County Council through the school medical, child welfare and medical practitioner services.

During the year the following treatments were carried out. The figures in parenthesis are those for the preceding years.

Poliomyelitis (Six months to thirty nine years)

A poliomyelitis vaccination treatment session was held regularly in Shaftesbury on the second Thursday in the month from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>
Two treatments	215	(333)	(488)
Three treatments	243	(595)	-
<u>Diphtheria</u>			
Primary treatments	34	(56)	(23)
Booster treatments	53	(37)	(8)
<u>Whooping Cough</u>			
Primary treatments	29	(48)	(23)
Booster treatments	3	(19)	(8)
<u>Tetanus</u>			
Primary treatments	34	(53)	(11)
Booster treatments	18	(1)	(Nil)
<u>Smallpox</u>			
Primary vaccinations	21	(33)	(30)
Re-vaccinations	9	(15)	(Nil)
<u>B.C.G. Vaccination against tuberculosis</u>			
	-	(85)	-

D. Environmental Health Services

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (Part time) - Noel F. Pearson,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset Area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is something less than one half day per week.

Public Health Inspector (Part time) - William Norman Teasdale,
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Certificate of
R.S.H. and P.I.E.J.B. Certificate of
R.S.H. as Inspector of Meat and Other
Foods.

Technical Assistant (Part time) - Philip Stroud

Difficulty is experienced in the absence of any regular clerical or typing staff. This leads to administrative difficulties which in turn affects the efficiency of the technical duties carried out.

WATER SUPPLY

All properties in the Borough are served by a public water supply with the exception of one property having a satisfactory private supply.

Twenty five properties (fifty three persons) are, however, still served by standpipe supplies.

Since April 1st, 1960 the public supply has been provided by the South and West Wilts Water Board. Close co-operation has been maintained between officers of your Council and those of the Board. Regular sampling of the supply at source, by the Board and, in the course of distribution, by your officers has been carried out.

The supply remained satisfactory in quantity and quality throughout the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

At long last the old sewers of the town have given rise to very serious trouble by blockage or collapse. The result of which has been that the Council's Consulting Engineers have been instructed to prepare a comprehensive scheme to provide new sewers through the major part of the centre of the town.

Other new proposals, include the extension of the sewer from Coppice Street along Christys Lane to Wincombe Lane to serve a new proposed industrial site in this area.

The condition of the old sewers showed that for a long period a considerable amount of sewage has been finding its way into the greensand on which Shaftesbury stands. Bearing in mind that the main water supply is derived from boreholes sunk within half a mile of the defective sewers it has been surprising that the supply has consistently showed no evidence of contamination. A weekly bacteriological examination of the supply is carried out and chlorination is given as an added safeguard.

Sewage disposal in the Longcross area continues to cause difficulties.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Collection This continues to be carried out weekly by means of kerbside collection. One or two larger commercial concerns have recently obtained an extra collection on a rechargeable basis. The volume of refuse collected is increasing annually, and refuse collection is now being spread into the third day.

Disposal These extra collections are further aggravating the problem of disposal at Salisbury Road tip and the extra land taken for tipping purposes is being filled quickly. Bull dozing of the surface and the use of large quantities of excavated earth from road improvement schemes has resulted in an improvement of the area already filled, but the constant spread of this mound of refuse is likely to cause many public health problems to residents in the area.

This problem is not likely to be solved until tipping ceases and an alternative site for disposal is found.

The local joint committee in the area to explore co-operation in refuse disposal did not meet during the year and the progress in this field seems to be at a standstill which is to be regretted.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION

No action has been called for during the past year.

SHOPS ACT

The Borough Council is the responsible Authority for the administration of the Shops Act, 1950 within the Borough.

No. of inspections carried out	117
No. of defects found	10
No. of notices served	6
No. of notices complied with	6

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (Nil figures are not given)

	<u>No. of Premises on Register</u>	<u>Inspec- tions.</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	2	9	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	21	62	5
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	10	15	-
Total -	33	86	5

No. of cases in which defects were -	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred by Factory Inspector</u>
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	1
Sanitary Conveniences. - Unsuitable or defective	2	2	1
Other offences	-	-	-
Total -	4	4	2

No. of outworkers - 93 (Wearing apparel)

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action was called for or taken during the year.

SWIMMING BATHS

The final alterations incorporating a new pump house, gravity filter with larger suction and delivery pumps has resulted in further improvements. In addition, the purchase of a suction cleaner for the bottom of the bath has brought about improved clarity of the water and less changing of the water.

The standard of purity judged by samples taken periodically has been high and it is expected that this will continue during 1961.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES

The Caravans Sites and Control of Development Act came into operation during the year but had little impact in the district as no applications under the Act were received during the year.

Nevertheless, the Act is of interest as it is designed to acknowledge that an increasing use is going to be made of the caravan both for temporary and permanent occupation, but to ensure that they shall be used under satisfactory conditions.

Sited as your Borough is, half way between London and Devonshire and Cornwall, a well planned and equipped caravan camp site either municipal or private would be of considerable advantage.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

Vermin as such do not constitute a problem in the area, but the same cannot be said of the continual infestation or re-infestation of houses and other premises by cluster flies. The roof spaces of many houses have had to be treated, although the poor summer of 1960 did not give rise to as many cases as the previous year. There were heavy infestations, however, in a local Church and other non-domestic premises which have proved more troublesome because of the great area to be covered and the larger volume of smoke required.

The experiment of spraying roof timbers carried out by operatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and Food in 1959 appears to have been effective in that no further complaints have been received from the house treated.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The duties of the Council under the above Act are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee.

The Rodent Officer and operatives have covered the area very efficiently and complaints of infestations have been dealt with promptly. The main sources of infestation still prove to be the refuse tip at Salisbury Road and the defective brick sewers in the centre of the town. It is expected that the new sewerage scheme should deal with the latter source when it comes into operation, but there is still a problem in the outfall areas on the outskirts of the town.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

No premises in the Borough are registered or licensed under this Act.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

No premises in the Borough are registered or licensed under this Act.

SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS)

The outbreak of food poisoning at the Grammar School resulted in a re-appraisal of the structure and conditions prevailing in the kitchens. Although the defects were not serious, they were sufficient to give rise to recommendations for re-designing the preparation and storage rooms attached to the kitchens. Plans for the re-design have been approved and it is expected that this work will be completed during 1961.

In other schools also every effort has been made to conform to the Hygiene Regulations, and it is rewarding to note the increase in the use of plastic covered tables and other surfaces easy to clean. At the Girls High School, the staff have a difficult task to cope with a large number of meals in a kitchen which is now too small and there is a major difficulty in providing adequate space for the storage of food.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 & 1951 - Section 47

No action was called for under these Acts during the year.

HOUSING - SLUM CLEARANCE

No new houses were built by the Council during the year. Twelve were provided by private enterprise. These were not of the type likely to reduce the demands made on the Council's housing waiting list.

As will be seen from the following statistics no further action was taken during the year toward slum clearance. Until there are more houses provided to rehouse those in housing need the representation of houses for demolition or clearance is of no practical value.

There still remains an appreciable number of occupied houses which remain unfit by the low standard set by the Housing Acts. There is an even larger number which, although not unfit by this standard, are nevertheless unfit as homes by an reasonable standard, in that they lack the amenities considered to be essential - a running hot water supply, indoor sanitation and a fixed bath.

The availability of standard improvement grants assist in the provision of these amenities, but very limited use is made of them in respect to houses to let.

It is suggested that the time has come when a time limit (be it five years or ten years) should be placed on the occupation of accommodation which has not reasonable basic amenities.

Total number of houses in the district 1,123

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

Total No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year 342

No. of inspections made 520

No. of informal notices served 61

No. of informal notices complied with 53

No. of statutory notices served Nil

No. of statutory notices complied with Nil

No. of houses reported under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 Nil

Action taken by the Local Authority in respect of such houses -

Demolition Orders made Nil

Undertakings accepted for -

Closure Nil

Reconditioning Nil

Other Action Nil

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year Nil

Overcrowding

No case of statutory overcrowding was found during the year.

HOUSING (Continued)

Houses Let in Lodgings

No houses in the Borough are known to be let in lodgings.

Rehousing

Nine families were rehoused by the Council during the year.

Housing Applications

Resident within the district	<u>56</u>
Resident without the district	<u>20</u>

Improvement Grants

Four applications for 'standard' and fourteen for 'discretionary' grants were received during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Milk

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1956

No. of 'Dealers' subject to registration by the District Council 6

No. of 'dairies' in the district subject to registration NIL

No. of 'distributors' subject to registration 7

Samples

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination during the year:-

	<u>Passed</u>	<u>Failed</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculin Tested	4	2	6
Pasteurised	8	-	8

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 - Regulation 20

No action was called for or taken during the year.

Other Food Premises

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business:-

Hotels, restaurants, cafes and boarding houses	29
Canteens - School and workplace	3
Confectioners	6
Meat and Fish	8
Grocers	9
Mixed Stores	4
Boarding Schools and other residential institutions	2
Food factories	3
Stalls	-
Other	8

No. of above subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 in respect of -

Ice cream	16
Sausages & prepared meats	3
Fish and Chips	2

No. of samples of ice cream submitted for Methylene Blue Test Nil

No. of premises inspected during the year	61
No. of inspections carried out	153

Food Inspection

Slaughterhouses There is only one licensed slaughterhouse in the Borough.

The appointed day by which this slaughterhouse has to comply with all the requirements of the structural regulations in accordance with the Slaughterhouse Act, 1958 is April 1st, 1961.

Particulars with regard to meat inspection carried out at the slaughterhouse is given in the following table. It will be particularly noted not one case of tuberculosis infection was found in any carcase slaughtered which is a credit to the efficiency of the tuberculosis eradication scheme now operative in the district.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	167	45	1,317	160	43
Number Inspected	167	45	1,317	160	43
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	8	11	2	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	24	17	9	5	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	14.9	55.6	1.5	4.4	4.7
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Butchers' Shops and Other Premises

No meat was condemned at butcher's shops for bone taint or other causes either of home killed or imported meat. The quantities of tinned goods condemned is as under:-

Tinned Meat	44 lbs.	Tinned Milk	9 lbs.
Tinned Fruit	277 lbs.	Tinned Vegetables	49 lbs.
Tinned Fish	11 lbs.		

Basement Bakehouses

There is one basement bakehouse in the town which is licensed for use under the Factories Act, 1937 in so far as the premises are considered suitable for the purpose for which they are used.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS (INCLUDING HOUSING) CARRIED OUT

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	<u>3,022</u>
Total No. of informal notices served	<u>263</u>
Total No. of informal notices complied with	<u>242</u>
Total No. of statutory notices served	<u>1</u>
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	<u>1</u>
No. of prosecutions	<u>Nil</u>

E. RADIATION HAZARDS

The Radioactive Substances Act came into operation during the year.

No information has been received during the year, under the Act, indicating premises where radioactive material is in use or in respect to authorised arrangements made for the disposal of radioactive waste from such premises.

What information has been made available with regard to the results of monitoring background radiation from nuclear fall out by Central Departments suggests no deterioration in the present position.

F. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Other than Tuberculosis -

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>
Scarlet Fever	8
Whooping Cough	2

Tuberculosis -

<u>New Cases Notified</u>	
<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>
Nil	Nil

Food Poisoning -

Although only two cases of food poisoning were notified during the year, these two cases were associated with an outbreak affecting a party of boys from a Shaftesbury School taken ill with food poisoning during a day trip to London. The cause of the outbreak was ascertained and confirmed bacteriologically.

The outbreak confirmed (by omission) well established principals with regard to safe food preparation and storage.

NOEL F. PEARSON

Medical Officer of Health

